

**An Energy-Efficiency Workshop and Exposition**  
Orlando, Florida

# Buying Biobased Products

## Proposed USDA Guidelines

August 17-20, 2003




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## 2002 Farm Bill

### Mandatory Procurement of Biobased Products


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## Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA)

- Title IX. Energy
  - Section 9002. Federal Procurement of Biobased Products.
  - “Federal agencies...give preference to...biobased products.”

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## Notice!

Draft regulations creating the regulatory structure have not yet been published in the *Federal Register* for comment. This power point presentation represents a preliminary perspective on the framework currently in review.

**Be advised that the final regulation may differ from this presentation!**

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## Delegation

- Authority for implementing Section 9002
  - Delegated to USDA's Office of Energy Policy & New Uses
    - Incorporated work done under E.O. 13101 by ARS, Office of Technology Transfer, on content as base
    - Consulted with EPA, NIST, GSA, OFEE, DLA and OFPP
    - Also consulted with members of USDA's Biobased Products and Bioenergy Coordination Council.

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## Roles and Responsibilities of:

- USDA;
- Other Federal Agencies;
- Office of Federal Procurement Policy;
- Manufacturers/vendors

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## USDA Will:

- Develop and publish guidelines for designating biobased items;
- Set forth recommended procurement practices (model procurement program);
- Establish a voluntary USDA labeling program (in the future).

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## Guidelines for Designation

- USDA Secretary will consider the following information when designating items for preferred procurement:
  - availability;
  - economic and technical feasibility of using such items, including life cycle analysis.

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## Definitions

- “Items”--a generic grouping derived from product reviews and market research.
- “Products”--the actual materials supplied by manufacturers or vendors.

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## Federal Agencies Will:

- Establish agency biobased preferential procurement programs to require use of biobased products to maximum extent practicable;
- An agency biobased products promotion program;
- Annual review and monitoring of program;

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## Office of Federal Procurement Policy Will:

- Cooperate with USDA in extending the model preferential procurement program to other agencies
- Coordinate the biobased products procurement policy with other Federal procurement policies;
- Report to Congress every two years on agencies' progress to implement the program.

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## Manufacturers/vendors Will:

- Determine whether the products they offer fall within USDA items designated for preferred procurement;
- Certify the biobased content of products offered;
- Provide other pertinent information.

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## Progress on Process

- Created a management information system,
- Established capability for testing,
- Provided testing services, and
- Developing testing partnerships

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## “USDA Certified Biobased Product”

A draft regulation will be issued to implement this program.

- Labeling program is voluntary
- Additional informational requirements may be placed on manufacturers/vendors
- Vendors must request label
- Establish agency recognition program.

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## Eleven Categories Proposed

- Adhesives
- Construction Composites
- Fuel Additives
- Landscaping Products/Compost
- Lubricants/Functional Fluids
- Materials/Fibers/Papers /Packing
- Paints and Coatings
- Plastics
- Solvents/Cleaners and Ag Chemicals
- Sorbents
- Vegetable Oil Inks

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## Adhesive

- Items include:
  - book bindings, envelopes, stamps, medical applications such as tapes and alternatives to sutures, doors, windows, paper bonds, corrugated paper boxes, lumber, furniture;
  - biobased pressure sensitive adhesives developed for clear tape, duct tape, masking tape, labels, disposable items; and
  - soy-based adhesives to glue wood—finger-jointed lumber, beams, I-joists, etc.

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## Construction Materials and Composites

- Items include:
  - molding and trim; roof and floor trusses; wall systems made from compressed cereal straws or other ag fibers; composites from soy or other vegetable proteins; molded furniture; ag fibers combined with recycled plastic.
  - those using biobased adhesives—lumber, OSB, fiberboard, laminated beams, decorative composites.
  - construction materials using biobased polyurethane—carpet backing, foam cushions, padding, car seats/parts, molded packing, bioplastic and rigid foams, insulation.

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## Fibers, Paper and Packaging

- Items include:
  - tree-free paper from kenaf, cotton liners, corn stover, chicken feathers, other agricultural fibers;
  - ropes, textiles and yarns from non-traditional fibers;
  - bulk packing materials, “peanuts” and molded fibers; and
  - paperboard made from residues or recycled sources.

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## Landscaping Material and Compost

- Examples of items include:
  - barks, chips, mulch, pine needles, straw, composted manures and other green wastes as soil amendments.

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## Lubricants and Functional Fluids

- Items include:
  - crankcase oils and greases, transmission fluids, coolants, power steering fluids, brake fluids;
  - cutting and drilling oils, stamping and forming lubricants;
  - hydraulic fluids and process fluids (heat transfer and dielectric);
  - total loss lubricants—rail and flange, wire rope, chain saw, form release, two-cycle engines, all purpose, and food service equipment.

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## Bioplastic

Items include:

- biodegradable foams used in food packaging;
- durable foams used as insulation and cushioning in appliances, cushions, molded dashboards, furniture; Biodegradable plastic films;
- durable films/coatings—automotive and construction equipment, tools, electrical equipment and appliances;
- water soluble polymers—water clean up;

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## Bioplastic Items continued...

- biodegradable/compostable molded products such as table flat ware, knives, spoons, and forks;
- durable molded plastic products—thermoset automotive parts, and equipment, hoods, doors, access panels for equipment;
- molded composites—automobile door panels and trunk liners; and
- woven fibers to function similarly to nylon in textiles and carpeting.

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## Paints and Coatings

- Items include:
  - seed coatings for germination, marine coatings, concrete and wood sealers, stains, corrosion inhibitors, polishes, paints and lacquers.

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## Solvents and Cleaners

- Items include:
  - replacements for petro chemicals like mineral spirits, ketones, acetone, trichloroethylene, xylene, toluene, and methyl chloride; and
  - those used for fabric and textile cleaning; fruit and vegetable cleaning; removal of grease, tar, oil, stains, paints from concrete and metal surfaces; paints strippers for metals and woods; carpet and upholstery cleaner; solvent for inks, paints, lotions, polishes; agricultural chemicals; graffiti remover, industrial parts cleaning.

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## Sorbents

- Items include:
  - animal bedding, industrial sorbents, seed coatings, wound dressings, fuel filters, disposable diapers, etc.

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## Vegetable Oil Inks

- Items printed include:
  - newspapers, magazines, brochures, business cards, reports, stencils, textiles, labeling;
  - pens and other writing instruments.
  - Vegetable Printing Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-348) mandates all federal lithographic printing be performed using such ink.

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